

# Secretary Shinseki Visit August 2010



Dr. Ann McKee, Director of Neuropathology for the New England VA Medical Centers and Co-director, Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, Boston University found a unique pathological disease in three (3) professional athletes who suffered long-standing repetitive brain trauma. The disease, called Chronic Traumatic Encephalomyelopathy (CTEM), is characterized by the build-up of two (2) abnormal proteins (tau and TDP43) in the brain and spinal cord and is associated with symptoms that mimic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

This study provides the first pathological evidence linking repetitive head trauma to a form of motor neuron disease or ALS a disease that Veterans are developing in rates higher than the general population.

Because of this groundbreaking research, her earlier work and the impact it has on our deployed troops as well as the Nations Veterans, Secretary Shinseki made a personal visit to Dr. McKee to learn more.







**Director Follensbee welcomes the Secretary to Bedford**





**Secretary Shinseki greets Dr. Ann McKee and the Acting Network Director,  
Sandra Davidson**



**Dr. McKee provides Secretary Shinseki a visual tour of work conducted**







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**As Secretary Shinseki departs they reflect on the impact and opportunity as a result of Dr. McKee's research.**



**Secretary Shinseki offers his thanks to Volunteer, Mariam Daley**